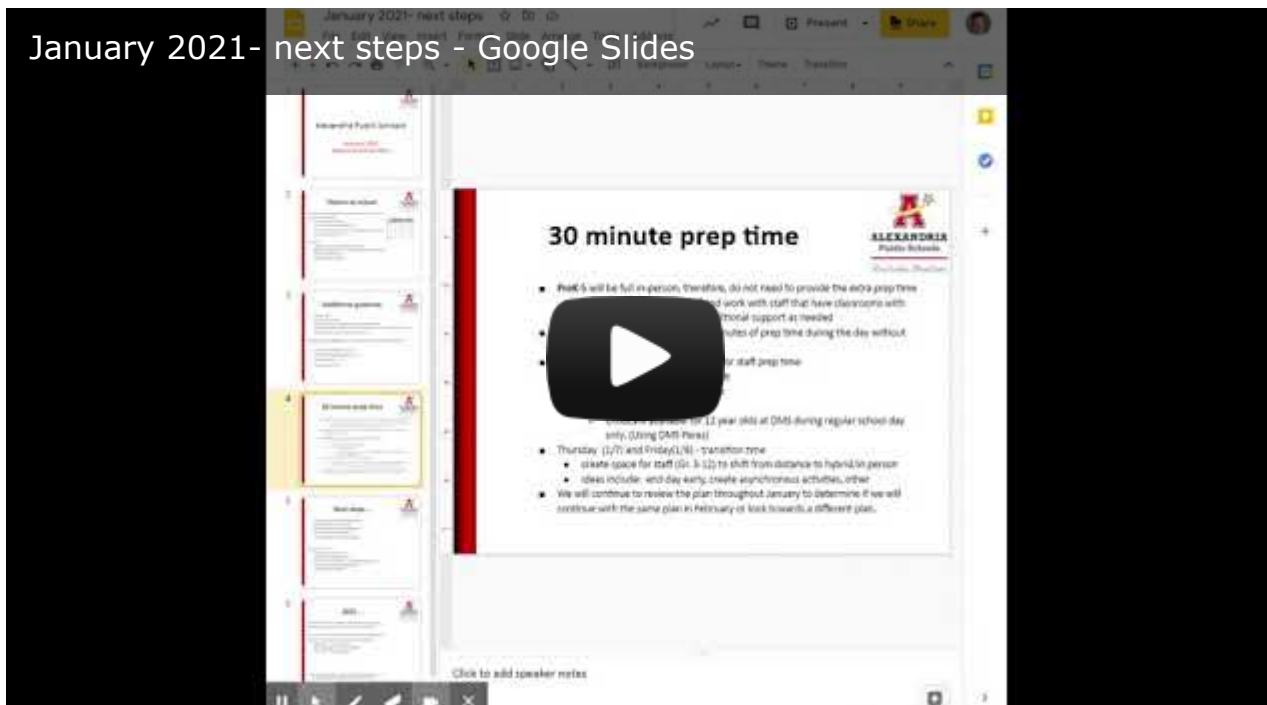


A Team Staff News

December 22, 2020

Message from the Superintendent

Click on the video link below for a message from Rick around our January 2021 Return to School Plan.



Upcoming Events

- **December 23-January 3** - Winter Break, No School PreK-12, Compass Closed
- **January 4:** Classes Resume
- **January 4:** School Board Organizational Meeting, DO, 7:00pm
- **January 11:** PreK-5 full in-person; Grades 6-12 hybrid model
- **January 18:** No School 6-8; PreK-5 full in-person; 9-12 hybrid model
- **January 22:** 9-12 End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester
- **January 25:** No School PreK-12; Teacher Workday PreK-12
- **January 25:** School Board Meeting, DO, 7:00pm



Department News

Business Services Update from Trevor Peterson

Over the past 6 months, the HR & Finance team have been working on the implementation of a new software program to create efficiencies. The "go live" date of this system will be January 1st, and it will impact all staff in regards to where you will access your paycheck data, leave balances, requisition process and much more. More details will be coming out over the next few weeks and it will be very important that all staff familiarize themselves with this change.

Human Resources Update from Scott Heckert

February 1 Deadline Reminders

1. Teachers wishing to make a mid-year lane change need to have all of their paperwork to the Human Resources Department on or before Monday, February 1, 2021. The only exception to this deadline is the transcript portion of the paperwork that is needed, as sometimes teachers are waiting for the official transcript from the college. When the transcript is received it should be sent over to the HR Dept. and then the lane change can be processed and will be retroactive to February 1, if all the paperwork is in order.
2. Teachers planning to retire at the end of this school year should have their retirement letter submitted to the HR Dept. on or before February 1, 2021. The Human Resources Department will send an email to teachers that submit a retirement letter so that they are assured that their letter has been received.

Please direct questions related to either of these two items to Scott Heckert, Human Resources Director at ext. 4204 or sheckert@alexschools.org.

Teaching & Learning Update from Darcy Josephson

Thanks for the great participation in the Catalyst Training on November 30th. **Ninety-six percent of the registered staff completed the training on the 30th!** The additional handouts/posters were distributed by the principals at each site. If you have suggestions for the ongoing support for the Catalyst Approach, please send me your input.

All certified staff will be participating in Cultural Competence training during the February 22nd professional development day. A reminder that on any district professional development day the topics and hours are being put into the Frontline system for you.

We will be completing STAR, FAST and Benchmarking Assessment in January. Please find the dates for the testing listed below. Please do not hesitate to contact [Darcy Josephson](#) if you have any questions.

Testing Dates		
Grades K-5	January 4-22	Benchmark Assessments
Kindergarten-1 st grade	January 11-15	FAST Assessment
Grades 2-8	January 11-22	STAR Reading and Math Assessment
Grades 2-5	January 18-22	FAST Assessment
Grades 9-10	January 26-29	STAR Reading and Math Assessment
ALL ELL Students	January 25-March 19	Window for ACCESS testing
Grade 3	February 8-19	CoGAT testing

School Board Briefs - December 21, 2020 regular meeting

New A-Team Members

We welcome the following individuals to our A-Team staff:

- **Lynn Didier**, Secretary, effective 12/7/2020.
- **Turner Haar**, Compass Assistant, effective 12/7/2020.
- **Samuel Hess**, Physical Education Teacher, effective 12/8/2020.
- **Katelyn Langner**, Compass Group Leader, effective 12/9/2020.
- **Megan Prescott**, Instructional Paraprofessional, effective 12/7/2020; Compass Group Leader, effective 12/14/2020.
- **Julie Wilmesmeier**, Compass Assistant, effective 12/7/2020.

Other Items from the December 21 Regular Board Meeting

- The Board certified the 2020 payable 2021 property tax levy in the amount of \$16,288,175.99. The final levy is lower than last year's final levy by \$71,234.35, or -0.44%. The taxes paid in 2021 affect the district's 2021-22 fiscal year.
- Matt Aker, Heather Timm, and Chelsey Wildman, shared highlights from Discovery Middle School around their work to grow relationships and create positive connections for DMS students.
- Wade Nibbe shared an update from the Buildings & Grounds Department.
- The Board approved Work Agreements for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years with the Custodial, Principal, and Department Leader employee groups, respectively. The agreements reflect minor contract language changes, insurance adjustments, and salary settlements in line with other work groups.
- The Board adopted the curriculum & program modifications at AAHS for the 2021-2022 school year which received a first reading at the November 2020 board meeting.
- The Board approved the first reading of course changes being proposed at DMS for the 2021-2022 school year. Due to changes in MN Science standards, the 6th grade schedule will be changed to provide for a full 55 minutes for Math instruction and a full 55 minutes allotted to Science. Other changes reflect consistency in the names of 6th grade rotational classes.
- The Board approved a lease addendum between American National Bank and Alexandria Public Schools extending the lease of gymnastics space in the Spirit building until December 31, 2021.
- The Board approved an amendment to the substitute pay rate schedule for bus drivers in the district who drive over 100 hours to be paid \$17/hr effective 12/21/2020.

First Reading of District Policy Revision

The Board approved the first reading of policy updates for:

- **Policy 533** - Districtwide School Wellness Policy
- **Policy 601** - School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals
- **Policy 658** - Student Activity Programs Through the Use of an Independent Provider Sponsor
- **Policy 805** - Waste Reduction and Recycling
- **Policy 806** - Emergency Management
- **Policy 910** - Sanctioning of District Activities

Policies Adopted

The Board adopted the revisions to the policies and procedures listed below that received a first reading at the November school board meeting.

- [Policy 210](#) - Criminal or Civil Action Against School District, School Board Member, Employee or Student
- [Policy 620](#) - Course Credit for Learning
- [Policy 714](#) - Fund Balances
- [Policy 723](#) - Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources
- [Policy 903](#) - Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites

Repeal Policy 623

The Board took action to Repeal Policy 623 - Use of Electronic Mail as those components are embedded in other technology and acceptable use policies.

December Points of Pride

- **Kristen Hoskins** was named the North Central Red District Special Teams Player of the Year. Additionally, Kristen was selected as one of five Community Captains by the Minnesota Vikings and Sleep Number - an honor awarded to outstanding varsity athletes around the state who demonstrate strong leadership on and off the field, have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and have a voluntary community service history.







Rich tradition. Bright future.

Alexandria Public Schools

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Our **Mission** is to achieve educational excellence and to inspire a life-long passion for learning.

Our **Vision** is to be an extraordinary school district that tailors learning for each child, by working together!

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 320-762-2141  alexschools.org

Happy H

